



U.S. Department  
of Veterans Affairs

Via Email: [60928-54075057@requests.muckrock.com](mailto:60928-54075057@requests.muckrock.com)

**AUG 21 2019**

Mr. Jasper Craven  
MuckRock News  
DEPT MR 60928  
411 Highland Avenue  
Somerville, MA 02144-2516

FOIA Tracking Number: 18-12957-F

Mr. Craven:

This is in response to your Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request to the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) dated September 15, 2018, requesting copies of the following records:

1. All e-mail communications between officials at The University of Phoenix and the following officials: Christopher Britt, Casin Spero, Darin Selnick, Curt Cashour, David Shulkin, Robert Wilkie, Scott Blackburn, Thomas Bowman, Peter O'Rourke, Brooks Tucker and Jonathan Ulyot between Jan. 20, 2017 and present day. Keywords should include, but are not limited to, "regulation" "VA," "for profit," "education," and "38 U.S.C. 3683." The emails from the University of Phoenix staffers will end in @phoenix.edu.

Your request was received by the FOIA Service on September 17, 2018, and assigned FOIA Tracking Number 18-12957-F. Please reference this number when communicating with the OI&T office concerning your request.

We regret the delay you have experienced in receiving a VA response to your FOIA request. The delay is due to a significant FOIA backlog, and the requirements under 38 C.F.R 1.555 (c) to consult with the component that originated or has a substantial interest in the records involved prior to any disclosure. The records you are seeking were not maintained in the FOIA Service Office.

The VACO FOIA Service Office reached out to the IT Operations & Services (ITOPS) Office to conduct a search for all e-mail communications between officials at the University of Phoenix and the VA officials listed above; however, the search found no responsive records between any of the VA officials and the University of Phoenix staffers.

Mr. Jasper Craven  
Page 3

Office of Government Information Services  
National Archives & Records Administration  
8601 Adelphi Road  
College Park, MD 20740-6001  
Email: [ogis@nara.gov](mailto:ogis@nara.gov)  
Phone: (202) 741-5770  
Toll-free: 1-877-684-6448  
Facsimile: (202) 741-5769

There are no fees associated with processing your request.

This concludes the FOIA Service's response to your request. We appreciate your interest in the VA.

If you have any further questions, please feel free to contact Barbara Brown at (202) 632-7382.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Doloras Johnson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Doloras" being more prominent than the last name "Johnson".

Ms. Doloras Johnson  
Director, VACO FOIA Service  
Quality, Privacy, and Risk (QPR)  
Office of Information and Technology (OIT)

Mr. Jasper Craven

Page 2

You have the right to appeal this "no records" response within 90 days of the date of this letter if you do not agree with this determination. You may appeal in writing to:

Department of Veterans Affairs  
General Counsel (024)  
810 Vermont Avenue  
Washington, DC 20420

You may also submit your appeal via facsimile to (202) 273-6388 or via email to [ogcfoiaappeals@va.gov](mailto:ogcfoiaappeals@va.gov). If you do appeal this determination, you must specify which part of the determination you are appealing. Please include a copy of your request and my letter with your appeal, and clearly state why you disagree with this determination. If you mail your appeal, both the front of the envelope and the letter should be clearly marked "FOIA Appeal". Please also include a daytime telephone number in case the Office of General Counsel needs additional information.

As an alternative to submitting an appeal, you may contact the VA FOIA Public Liaison, which was created to offer mediation services to resolve disputes between FOIA requesters and the VA. Using the VA FOIA Public Liaison does not affect your right to appeal.

You may contact the VA FOIA Public Liaison at:

Department of Veterans Affairs  
VA FOIA Public Liaison (005R1C)  
810 Vermont Ave., NW  
Washington, DC 20420  
Email: [vacofoiaservice@va.gov](mailto:vacofoiaservice@va.gov)  
Telephone: (877) 750-3642  
Facsimile: (202) 632-7581

You also have the option, as an alternative to submitting an appeal, to contact the Office of Government Information Services (OGIS) whom was created to offer mediation services to resolve disputes between FOIA requesters and Federal agencies. Using OGIS does not affect your right to appeal. You may contact OGIS in any of the following manners: